

REMARKS

Applicants are concurrently filing an Information Disclosure Statement and respectfully request its consideration prior to any action on the merits in this case.

In the Office Action, the claims were grouped as follows: Group I, claims 1-16 and 41-42 to polymers; Group II, claims 17-19, said to be to an aromatic monomeric unit; Group III, claims 20-24, to a method of screening; Group IV, claims 25-31, to an assay method; and Group V, claims 32-40, said to be to a kit for assaying. Restriction was made between the inventions.

Applicants elect Group I, claims 1-16 and 41-42, and reserve the right to amend their process claims to depend on this group. Applicants note that they believe claims 36-39 should have been placed in Group IV rather than Group V. Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 17-19 with Group I, as these claims also relate to the polymer of Group I (comprising an aromatic monomeric unit), and are not drawn only to the monomer itself. As Groups I and II share the polymer as a common feature, their examination together is not believed to pose an undue burden as the search will be overlapping.

CONCLUSION

A one-month extension of time is being filed simultaneously with this Response, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit our Deposit Account No. 02-4553 reference 51871.000005UTL1 in the amount of \$60.00. If this amount is incorrect, the Commissioner is further authorized to debit or credit said Deposit Account accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

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